GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2587
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
PRODUCTION OF COFFEE
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coffee during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating financial condition of coffee growers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to write off the huge interest on loan taken by coffee growers from Coffee Board?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) The production of Coffee during the last three years, State-wise, is as under:

(Qty in Tonnes)

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	1,41,000	1,58,650	1,82,900
Kerala	47,300	50,850	61,150
Tamil Nadu	15,700	16,500	18,300
Other	1,000	2,000	2,650
Total	2,05,000	2,28,000	2,65,000

(Other States:- Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, etc.)

(b) & (c): The Indian coffee growers are getting higher domestic prices for their produce as compared to international prices.

(d) Keeping in view the non-payment of developmental loans by the coffee growers and the quantum of interest/penal interest thereon, the Government of India in 1997, permitted the Coffee Board to waive penal interest due to the Coffee Board from thosegrowers who repay the principal loan amount with normal interest.